

Prescribed Burning Job Classifications

Class I – Conservation Planning

Include prescribed burning as a maintenance alternative

Class IIa – Burn Prescription

Size of Area: ≤ 5 acre*

Vegetation: non-volatile, no woody species > 2 in. dbh

Terrain: $\leq 8\%$ slope

Class IIb – Burn Prescription

Size of Area: ≤ 10 acre*

Vegetation: non-volatile, no woody species > 2 in. dbh

Terrain: $\leq 8\%$ slope

* Size of Area Contiguous acres to be burned on a single management unit during the same growing season are considered to be one prescribed burn regardless of the number of individual segments the fire is divided into. Total acres for any prescribed burn can't exceed the Size of Area limits for the appropriate job classification.

To have job approval authority, an employee must have completed the formal NRCS Prescribed Burning Training Course, plus additional requirements for higher class approval. The individual must demonstrate good judgement, knowledge, and skills in prescribed burning.

The following are the requirements for the job approval authority:

Class I Individual must have satisfactorily completed 16 hours of prescribed burning training which includes the following course content:

- Fire ecology and behavior
- Fire safety factors relative to Prescribed Burning
- Fire effects on:
 - Wildlife
 - Soils
 - Hydrology
 - Vegetation responses
- NRCS Policy (Federal and State)
- State burning laws and regulations

Class IIa Individual must have Class I approval authority. Individual must also have participated in a field training burn and at least three prescribed burns at which NRCS or the NJ Forest Fire Service supervised. In addition, the individual must have training in “Standards for Survival”, Smoke Management, and Overview of the Incident Command System. The individual must have demonstrated good judgement, knowledge, and skills in prescribed burning.

Class IIb Individual must have Class IIa approval authority. Individual must have participated in at least five Class IIa burns at which NRCS or NJ Forest Fire Service provided technical assistance.

Any NRCS employee who violates NRCS Prescribed Burning Policy will have their job approval authority revoked immediately.

Job approval authority may be granted to employees who have documented evidence of previous training that meets or exceeds NRCS prescribed burning training requirements.

SEPARATE PRESCRIBED BURNING PLANS MUST BE DEVELOPED FOR EACH IDENTIFIABLE PRESCRIBED BURN.

Prescribed burn management plans are valid only for the area planned and for the burning season planned. If the landowner decides to change the location of the burn or is unable to burn during the prescribed time frame, a new plan must be prepared prior to conducting the burn.